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February 19, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE PRESIDENT

You asked me the other day why we should not permit and even encourage a Congressional investigation of the handling of Cuba before 1961. I said I was wary of the precedent which would be set in any such investigation -- the least of it is that there would be the heaviest Republican pressure to extend the time-frame up through our own period.

So I have been thinking about an alternative, and I want to report that I have asked Roger Hilsman to consider whether his people could not do a history of policy toward Cuba over the last five years which would be full of effective information, if and when we need it, on the role of the last Administration in creating the problems we have to cope with. Such a job might be analogous to the one they did on Laos, and the purpose would be to develop adequate deterrent strength. I will let you know what he reports.

McG. B.

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